



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

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Higher Income Limits Allow Metro Action to help more with utility expense *State passes law to authorize departments to provide energy help to more families in need*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Last week the Tennessee House and Senate amended the law that determines the income level used to determine household income limits of low income families needing assistance with their energy costs through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Customers that meet the new LIHEAP income guidelines and have not been helped between July 2009 and now or were denied due to being over income are encouraged to apply.

“More families with low to moderate incomes are in need of help with their household payments. Some families have at least two working adults, but are still having trouble with keeping up with basic household expenses,” said Cynthia Croom, Executive Director of Metro Action.

The agency will send letters and partner with various agencies and groups to alert Davidson County residents about the new income limits that allow a family to earn more money and still qualify for assistance.

Initially a family of four could not earn over \$27,562.50 annually. By increasing the poverty rate from 120% to 200% a family of four earning up to \$44,100 annually can now receive assistance.

The Metro Action Commission has received a total of \$5.6 million in energy assistance funding for this fiscal year. Davidson County’s Metro Action Commission receives the second largest amount of LIHEAP funds in the state, only behind Shelby County. The commission expects to serve 14,210 households by the end of June. So far nearly 9,300 have received assistance.

“The timing of this change in the income requirements could not have come at a better time. With the expected rise in energy cost even the slightest increase in household expenses can have a tremendous ripple effect on a family’s ability to meet their basic needs,” said Croom.

Customers may apply for help with energy payments Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm. Customer Care hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Metro Action serves eligible customers that live in Davidson County. For a complete listing of other offices serving other counties within Tennessee go to www.tncommunityaction.org.

For more information about programs and services offered by Metro Action, please call 862-8860, Ext 100.

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